

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01104 251119Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 INR-10 L-03 VO-05 /036 W
-----112138 251125Z /14

R 250755Z MAY 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6238

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1104

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SREP, PINT, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI CHRISTIANS: IRAQI STATEMENT OF NONPERSECUTION

REF: STATE 124736

1. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE GUIDANCE CONTAINED REFTTEL.
IRAQIS ARE INDEED CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR INTERNATIONAL
IMAGE, FOR REASONS STATED PARA 1 AS WELL AS OTHERS,
AND ARE INTERESTED IN WAYS IN WHICH IT CAN BE IMPROVED.
ON THE BASIS OF OUR LOW-KEY SOUNDINGS, HOWEVER, IT
DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THEY ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING
ISSUING A STATEMENT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY NEVER
REALLY WERE.

2. I HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH BOTH ZAHAWI
AND ANBARI SUBSEQUENT TO THE CONVERSATION WITH THE
LATTER REPORTED IN BAGHDAD 1024. NEITHER ONE MENTIONED
THE IDEAS OF A STATEMENT. IN GOING BRIEFLY OVER THE
STATUS OF THE REFUGEES, AN ITEM OF CONTINUING BUT
APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT DIMINISHING INTEREST, OPPORTUNITIES
Arose IN WHICH A REFERENCE TO THIS SUBJECT COULD QUITE
LOGICALLY HAVE BEEN MADE BY EITHER OF THEM. NOT ONLY
WAS THE STATEMENT NOT MENTIONED, BOTH ZAHAWI AND ANBARI
APPEARED TO BE INTERESTED IN AVOIDING ANY DISCUSSIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01104 251119Z

OF ACTIONS THE GOI MIGHT BE CONSIDERING. ANBARI
MAY THEREFORE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING A PERSONAL
THOUGHT, AND NO MORE, AND HAS PERHAPS BEEN TOLD TO
DROP THE SUBJECT.

3. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR IRAQI CONTACTS HAVE IN
GENERAL TERMS ACCEPTED THE SITUATION AS EXPLAINED HERE AND,

AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, TO IRAQINT IN WASHINGTON. THEY SEEM TO BE CONVINCED THAT THE REFUGEES WILL NOT BE RETURNED, AND THEY KNOW THAT THEIR OWN HEAVY-HANDED PROPAGANDA IS LARGELY TO BLAME. REACTION OF THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS HARDER TO JUDGE.

4. RATHER THAN ISSUING A STATEMENT OF NONPERSECUTION, EITHER ACROSS THE BOARD OR WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN MINORITIES, IT NOW SEEMS THAT IRAQ WILL ATTEMPT TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME PURPOSE THROUGH THE STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE MINORITIES THEMSELVES. AS DEPT IS AWARE (BAGHDAD 1026), U.S. CITIZENS OF IRAQI ORIGIN HAVE RECENTLY BEEN HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY IN DESCRIBING THE MOTHER COUNTRY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION. ADDED TO OTHER COMMENTS OF A SIMILAR NATURE BY GROUPS OF OUTSIDERS, GOI MAY FEEL THAZ WHATEVER NEGATIVE IMPACT WAS CREATED BY STATEMENTS OF THE REFUGEES IN NEW YORK, CAN LARGELY BE OFFSET.

5. NONETHELESS, WE WILL BEAR IN MIND SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REFTTEL THAT WE SEARCH FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE IRAQIS TO IMPROVE BOTH THE FACT AND THE IMAGE OF THEIR INTERNAL PLICIES. GIVEN THEIR SENSITIVIES TO EXTERNAL CRITICISM, IT IS POSSIBLE SOMETHING CAN BE DONE IF HANDLED IN AN EXTREMELY DISCREET MANNER. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS APPROACH.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 01104 251119Z

PECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01104
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780220-1199
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780521/aaaaarlt.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 16fe4497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 124736
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2578767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI CHRISTIANS: IRAQI STATEMENT OF NONPERSECUTION
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PINT, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16fe4497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014